



BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1968



BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1968.

Chairman:

ALDERMAN C. W. MILNE, J. P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. J. AYRES

COUNCILLOR G. A. GRANVILLE

COUNCILLOR J. H. D. SAUNDERS

COUNCILLOR F. PHILLIPS

COUNCILLOR C. J. STONE, J. P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. REES, J. P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. I. Y. A. TESTER, B. A.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1968.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M. B. , B. Ch. B. A. O. , D. P. H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C. C.):

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M. B. , B. S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. J. HUNT, M. A. P. H. I. , Assoc. A. R. S. H.


Additional Public Health Inspectors:

C. W. RICHARDS, A. R. S. H. , M. A. P. H. I.

R. W. L. READ, D. P. A. , M. A. P. H. I.

Meat Inspector:

J. FIELD, Assoc. R. S. H. , M. A. M. I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1968.

Health Department,  
22, King Square,  
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 4147/8.

June, 1969.

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1968. The report is set out in the manner of previous reports, so that comparison with former years can easily be made. Generally the health of the Borough has been good and, apart from measles, notification of infectious diseases has been satisfactorily low. However 208 cases of measles were notified and it is very probable that the true incidence of the disease was significantly higher than this. It is therefore satisfactory to note that a reliable vaccine against the disease has been produced and the Ministry of Health will initiate a national measles vaccination campaign during the present year.

The vital statistics call for no special comment.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	2, 083
Population (census 1961)	25, 582
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1968.	26, 730
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1968.	8, 526
Rateable value on 31st December, 1968.	£1, 161, 159
Sum represented by 1d. rate on 31st December, 1968.	£4, 799

### Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1968.

#### Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	251	221	472
Illegitimate	17	30	47
	<u>268</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>519</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1, 000 population			19. 42
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			9. 06
Still Births			8
Still Birth Rate per 1, 000 live and still births			15. 18
Total live and still births			527
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			10
Infant Mortality Rate per 1, 000 live births - total			19. 27
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1, 000 total live births)			15. 42
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1, 000 total live births)			9. 63

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 24.66

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) NIL

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births NIL

### Deaths

Total number of deaths 319

Death Rate per 1,000 population 11.93

### Births

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 519 births (268 boys and 251 girls) in the Borough during 1968, being 19 births more than in 1967. Of these births 47 were illegitimate. This is 9.7% of the total live births, as compared with 9.8% in 1967.

The birth rate for any area is dependent on the composition of its population, and the Registrar General provides a comparability factor which is used to enable comparison to be made between the vital statistics of different areas. The product of the local birth rate and the comparability factor for the area is used for this purpose. Adjusted in this way the Standardised Birth Rate was 19.03 per 1,000 of population, which is more or less what would be expected in a prosperous town with a high employment rate. The ratio of the Standardised Birth Rate to the national rate was 1.12.

Birth rates for Bridgwater and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Crude Local Birth Rate	18.82	19.37	18.64	18.81	19.42
Standardised Birth Rate	18.44	18.98	18.26	18.43	19.03
England and Wales	18.40	18.00	17.70	17.20	16.90

### Still Births

8 still births were registered during the year. 6 were legitimate and 2 illegitimate. This number gives a rate of 15.18 per 1,000 total births.

### Deaths

The number of deaths which occurred in the Borough during 1968 was 323. Of these 77 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 73 deaths of Bridgwater residents registered outside the Borough. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the Borough was 319 (155 males and 164 females). This was 41 deaths less than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 11.93.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the population of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The Standardised Death Rate so obtained was 11.57 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.90 for England and Wales. The actual ratio was 0.97.

Death rates for Bridgwater Borough and England and Wales for the past five years were as follows: -

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Crude Death Rate	10.76	12.05	11.54	13.54	11.93
Standardised Death Rate	10.43	11.28	10.60	12.72	11.57
England and Wales	11.30	11.50	11.70	11.20	11.90



CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total
ALL CAUSES	155	164	319
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	-	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	-	2
Other tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	5	8	13
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	15	1	16
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	10	10
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	14	5	19
Diabetes mellitus	1	3	4
Anaemias	1	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive disease	7	12	19
Ischaemic heart disease	26	30	56
Other forms of heart disease	11	17	28
Cerebrovascular disease	21	29	50
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	5	15	20
Bronchitis and emphysema	17	2	19
Asthma	1	-	1
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital anomalies	3	2	5
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	2	2	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	2	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	2	4	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	7	15
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	4	-	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1	2

As will be seen from the foregoing table, the principal causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease	104
Cancer	61
Cerebrovascular disease	50
Pneumonia and bronchitis	39

Deaths. Age Groups 1968.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 Weeks	4	4	8
4 weeks and under 1 year	2	-	2
1 - 4 years	-	2	2
5 - 14 years	2	-	2
15 - 24 years	2	-	2
25 - 34 years	1	-	1
35 - 44 years	5	1	6
45 - 54 years	8	7	15
55 - 64 years	26	10	36
65 - 74 years	50	35	85
75 and over	55	105	160
	155	164	319

Cancer Mortality

The number of deaths from cancer of Bridgwater residents was 61 (males 34, females 27) as compared with 54 in 1967. They constituted 19.1% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease.

Location	Number of deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1967
Stomach	5	8	13	8
Lungs	15	1	16	13
Breast	-	10	10	5
Uterus	-	2	2	3
Other and unspecified organs	14	6	20	34
Total	34	27	61	63

Cancer of the Uterus

The County Council have now started a scheme whereby cervical smears can be taken with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. The tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Musgrove Park Hospital.

### Cancer of Lungs

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

Year	Under 15	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	Over 65	Total
1964	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	10
1965	-	-	-	1	-	4	7	12
1966	-	-	-	-	1	7	4	12
1967	-	-	-	-	1	4	8	13
1968	-	-	-	-	1	5	10	16

### Infantile Mortality

10 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 19.27 while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.00.

The following table shows the causes of the infant deaths in detail:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 4 weeks	1 - 6 months	6 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1
Congenital anomalies	2	-	-	-	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	4	-	-	-	4
Other causes	1	-	-	-	1
Infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	1	1	2
	8	-	1	1	10

There were 8 deaths of infants during the first 4 weeks of life compared with 2 the previous year.

### Deaths from Heart Disease

Of the 319 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in 3 (males 44, females 60). It represented 32.60% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.89 per 1,000 of the population.

### Influenza and Pneumonia Mortality

There were 22 deaths from these diseases. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.82.

### Suicide

2 deaths were caused by suicide.

### Inquests

11 inquests were held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year.

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Work accidents	1	-	1
Road accidents	3	1	4
Accidents in the home	1	-	1
Misadventure	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Accidental drowning	1	-	1
Total	8	3	11

### Population

The estimated population of the Borough as at June, 1968 was 26,730 which was an increase of 150 over the previous year. The natural increase in population, that is that excess of births over deaths, was 200.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>	<u>Natural Increase</u>
1957	24,480	115
1958	24,890	93
1959	25,290	147
1960	25,580	166
1961	25,580	129
1962	25,930	194
1963	26,130	192
1964	26,300	212
1965	26,480	195
1966	26,500	188
1967	26,580	140
1968	26,730	200

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year include:-

Water samples	24
Ice cream samples	72
Prepared Foods	67

## Hospitals

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

Bridgwater General Hospital	72 beds
Mary Stanley Nursing Home	31 beds
Northgate Hospital	60 beds

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

The new Outpatients Department at Bridgwater Hospital has been completed and is proving very satisfactory. Unfortunately, because of financial restrictions, the South Western Regional Hospital Board have put back their plans to improve the Casualty and X-ray Departments in the old building. It is intended that when this latter work is completed the Bridgwater Chest Clinic will be transferred to the hospital from the Health Centre at Mount Street. It is hoped that it will then be possible to provide surgery accommodation for general medical practitioners at the Health Centre. Ultimately it is anticipated that a further concentration of the health services will be possible by transferring the Area Health Office to the Health Centre.

## Ante-Natal Clinics

Doctors' ante-natal clinics are held three times a week at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home and are staffed by general practitioners who are interested in maternity work. The clinics help to cement the relationship between patient, midwife and doctor and are particularly valuable.

The usual clinics held at the Health Centre on the first Monday and the third Wednesday of the month for taking blood samples from expectant mothers for determination of Rhesus Factor, blood groupings etc. are continued as heretofore. During 1968 791 persons attended. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 751.

## Relaxation Classes

These classes which have become very popular are attended by about 20 expectant mothers at a time and are held at the Health Centre on Tuesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at the Mary Stanley Nursing Home on Wednesdays from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Following short talks on "Parentcraft" by a doctor, health visitor or midwife, relaxation instruction is given by a physiotherapist.

## Mothers Clubs

The Mothers Club which meets at the Health Centre has continued to flourish and has a membership of over 60 mothers. The average attendance at each weekly meeting is 35 - 40. After listening to a speaker or seeing an educational film, the mothers enjoy a social evening together. A similar club has now been organised for mothers living at the eastern end of the town and meetings are held every other Monday at 7.30 p.m. at Sydenham Secondary School during term time.



The mothers also help the Infant Welfare Clinic by taking charge of the play room during the infant welfare sessions.

### Infant Welfare Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinics are held as follows:-

The Health Centre, Mount Street.	Tuesday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. Friday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
The Community Centre, Parkway.	Thursday, 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.
Greenfields, Hamp Estate.	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month. 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

### Immunisation and Vaccination

Immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox are now entirely carried out by general practitioners under the County Council scheme utilising a computer to deal with the administrative aspects. This scheme is working satisfactorily and it will certainly result in raising still further the general level of immunisation of the community.

### Nurses and General Practice

Up to recent years Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives were appointed to work on a geographical basis and usually spent the greater part of their time working in one particular area of the town. This had certain advantages in that they came to know their area intimately and were well known to the residents and could make early contact with new arrivals. However this arrangement left a gulf between the family doctor and the nurses and close liaison between the two was not universally achieved. To bridge this gap, the year under review saw the introduction of a scheme whereby individual nurses were specifically attached to family doctor practices and now work on a practice rather than on a geographical basis. It is considered that the advantages resulting from this close contact between doctor and nurse outweigh any disadvantages and undoubtedly this arrangement, which is already widespread in the country will ultimately become universal.

### School Clinics

A school medical officer attends a school clinic each Monday morning from 10.00 a.m. at the Health Centre, Mount Street, and is available to advise parents on any health matters concerning their children. Many parents avail themselves of this additional opportunity to discuss their children's health with the school doctor.

School nurses hold minor ailments clinics at the Health Centre, from 9.00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Other clinics held at the Health Centre, Mount Street include:-

Chest Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday a. m.
Orthopædic Clinic	Monday a. m. (except first Monday in month)
Child Guidance Clinic	Tuesday a. m.
Breathing Exercises Clinic	Wednesday p. m. by appointment.
Artificial Sunlight Clinic	Tuesday and Friday p. m.
Speech Therapy Clinic	Monday a. m., Tuesday a. m., Wednesday a. m., Thursday a. m. and Friday a. m.

#### Friarn Day Nursery

This nursery, administered by the County Council, is available for children aged 6 months to 5 years. A list of priorities has been drawn up by the Council and a local Admission Committee decide which children should be admitted. Admission is granted mainly on grounds of economic difficulty or unsatisfactory housing conditions. Accommodation is available for 25 children. The average daily attendance during 1968 was 24 children.

#### Ambulance Service

The new ambulance station at Friarn Street has functioned satisfactorily and efficiently. Ambulances are controlled by radio communication from a central control at Taunton and a satisfactory service is provided.

#### Home Help Service

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street.

Once again the Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 230 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Maternity	6
Old age and infirmity	173
Tuberculosis	2
Chronic sick	27
Post operation	7
Emergency illness	3
Other cases	12

In many cases assisted the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31st December, 1968 was as follows:-

Full time	8
Part time	24

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Welfare of Old People

The various organisations to which reference was made in previous reports have continued to play an important part in contributing to the welfare of old people. The inclusion of chiropody treatment as part of the National Health Service has helped to fill a great need and has been much appreciated by the old people.

The Council assist the W. V. S. in providing meals on wheels for old people and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the recipients. An average of 88 meals per week are distributed.



# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Borough during 1968. The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals.

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	Age Unknown	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Whooping cough	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Measles	13	24	34	35	29	65	3	1	1	3	-	-	-	208	-
Tuberculosis; Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-
Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	-	7	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	6	19	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	15	24	34	36	29	69	5	1	4	7	4	14	6	248	-

During the previous year 424 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified.

### Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

No cases were notified during the year.

### Measles

208 cases of measles were notified during the year.

### Scarlet Fever

5 cases were notified.

### Tuberculosis

2 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and only 1 non-respiratory case of tuberculosis was notified in 1968, as compared with no respiratory cases and 1 non-respiratory in 1967.

	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-respiratory</u>
Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31. 12. 68.	82	10
Number of new cases during year	2	1
Number of deaths during the year	3	-

The following table shows the sex and age group of cases notified during the year:-

Age	Under 5	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Age Unknown	Total
Male	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### B. C. G. Vaccine

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B. C. G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 721 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Half Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 575 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B. C. G. vaccine.

### Food Poisoning

19 cases of Food Poisoning were notified. This was a localised outbreak which affected patients in the general hospital. The cause was established and the outbreak was quickly brought under control.

### Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse disposal is by Controlled Tipping and use as tipping sites is made of the many claypits surrounding the town. The tip at present in use is situated close to a residential area, and the strictest control over tipping technique is essential if nuisance is to be avoided. The Council are at present looking into the possibility of establishing in the rural area a tip which could be used jointly with the Rural District Council, particularly during the hot summer months of the year.

### Water Supplies

Regular bacteriological examination has been made of the water going into supply.

Results were as follows:-

### Ashford Supply

12 samples were tested after treatment and all gave excellent results.

### Durleigh Supply

12 samples were tested after treatment and all gave excellent results.

### Chemical Analysis

Reports were as follows:-

#### Ashford Reservoir

	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright.
	Hazen units less than 5.
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline.
pH	7.4
Free Carbon Dioxide	4.0
Total Solids	205.0
Total Alkalinity (As $\text{CaCO}_3$ )	110.0
Carbonate Hardness "	110.0
Non-Carbonate "	40.0
Total Hardness "	150.0
Chloride (as Cl)	22.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.004
Albuminoid " "	0.070
Nitrate " "	1.0
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.45
Sediment	Nil
Iron	0.05
Copper, Lead and Zinc	Nil

## Durleigh Reservoir

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	<u>Parts per million</u>
Physical Characters	Clear and bright.
	Hazen units less than 5.
Reaction	Very slightly alkaline.
pH	7.3
Free Carbon Dioxide	4.0
Total Solids	245.0
Total Alkalinity (As CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	120.0
Carbonate Hardness "	120.0
Non-Carbonate " "	50.0
Total Hardness " "	170.0
Chloride (as Cl)	27.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.006
Albuminoid " "	0.116
Nitrate " "	1.0
Nitrite " "	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.55
Sediment	Nil
Iron, Copper, Lead and Zinc	Nil

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Both supplies showed moderately hard waters containing some organic pollution.

### Swimming Baths

Treatment of the water in the swimming baths is regularly supervised. Modern plant enables the water to be turned over every six hours and at the same time to be filtered and purified. Bacteriological examination of the water was carried out on 12 occasions all but 2 of which gave excellent results.

### Sewage Disposal

The provision of a new sewer outfall to relieve overloaded sewers at Chilton Street and to provide for development in that area has been held up pending discussion with the River Authority on the broader question of sewage disposal from the Borough as a whole. The Council have, therefore, instructed their consulting engineers to prepare a scheme for the collection and treatment of all domestic sewage before discharge to the River Parrett. Further consideration is being given to measures designed to reduce the polluting effects of trade effluent on the river.

Housing

Number of permanent dwellings in Borough	8, 658
Number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	3, 520
Number of houses demolished or closed during the year as a result of formal or informal action	4

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection	
	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other purposes
Local Authority	-	82	-	4
Private Enterprise	-	57	-	30

Advantage has also been taken of Improvement Grants made under the Housing Acts, 1949-54. 51 applications were received and 40 were approved.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	7	21	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	131	206	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	13	-	-
Total	145	240	-	-



	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Insp.	By H. M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	7	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6	8	-	1	-

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome prem.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making etc. apparel) Cleaning and Washing	55	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	55	-	-	-	-	-

### STAFF EXAMINATIONS

Medical examinations carried out by the Department in connection with new appointments to the Council's staff, and in connection with the Superannuation Scheme and the Workmen's Sickness Benefit Regulations, were as follows:-

<u>Department</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Town Clerk	-	1	1
Borough Engineer	30	4	34
Borough Treasurer	-	-	-
Housing	4	3	7
Health	2	1	3
Library	2	1	3
	38	10	48





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To:

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Bridgwater.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1968.

Housing

In the early part of the year a complete survey was made of the houses in Union Street to ascertain the fitness of each individual house. A total of 71 houses were involved and of these 25 were found to be of a standard which classified them as fit. Most of these were owner/occupied and in many cases a good deal of money had been spent on them by the existing occupiers. Of the remainder, 10 houses were already closed.

No immediate redevelopment proposals are available for this area and the Health Committee decided that having regard to all the circumstances, that for the time being, we should continue to deal with individual unfit houses.

Following this policy a further 3 houses have been closed up to the time of writing this report.

During the year numerous complaints were received and dealt with under the Public Health or Housing Acts.

13 preliminary notices were served. In no case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

13 houses were inspected for the purpose of having defects remedied. During the year 6 houses were made fit, 4 houses were the subject of Closing Orders and six houses were demolished.

The inspection of accommodation occupied by applicants on the Housing Waiting List still entails a considerable amount of work and this has now been extended to include applicants residing near to, but outside of the Borough boundary. Altogether 267 houses were inspected for this purpose.

One case of overcrowding was found during the year, bringing the total on the register to seven.

## Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

### Registrations and Inspections

The whole of the premises coming within the scope of the Act have been registered. The Act places a duty on the occupier of the premises to notify the Local Authority in writing if he intends to use premises which will be subject to Registration.

Regular inspections are made of all registered premises.

### Operation of the General Provisions of the Act

The inspections have revealed and remedied a number of minor infringements of the Act, a list of which is given in the summary. However, the number of infringements under each section is much less than last year which is a direct result of continuous inspection and advice given by the department.

### Exemptions

One exemption was approved during the year. This was for exemption under Section 46 from the requirements to provide separate sanitary accommodation for the sexes. The exemption was granted for two years.

### Accidents

The number of accidents reported during 1968 was seven, which is 5 more than in 1967. Two of these accidents were caused by persons climbing without the use of a ladder which was available in each case. Another common cause is that of slipping on spilled liquids and one cannot stress too much the need to clean up immediately any spilled liquid, as failure to do so all too frequently leads to some one sustaining a leg or back injury which could have been avoided.

### Prosecutions

There has been no necessity to institute proceedings.

### Registrations and General Inspections

Class	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	16	123	19
Retail Shops	10	257	96
Wholesale shops, warehouses	6	19	11
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5	35	8
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	1, 156
Retail shops	1, 349
Wholesale departments, warehouses	360
Catering establishments open to the public	180
Canteens	6
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	3, 051
Total Females	1, 637
Total Males	1, 414

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 3	13	Sitting Facilities -
5	Overcrowding -	14	Seats (sedentary workers) -
6	Temperature 13	15	Eating facilities 3
7	Ventilation 2	16	Floors, passages & stairs 9
8	Lighting 2	17	Fencing exposed part machinery 4
9	Sanitary conveniences 21	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
10	Washing facilities 11	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery -
11	Supply of drinking water -	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation 9	24	First Aid General Provisions 25
22.		Total	102

### Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

The following table gives the amount of work carried out under the Act since it came into force.

No. of applications received	65
No. of houses inspected	65
Form J's sent to owners	65
Form K's received from owners	39
Repairs completed	58
Houses demolished	3
Applications withdrawn - tenants purchased house	3
Certificates of Disrepair issued	25
Certificates of Disrepair revoked	22

### Infectious Diseases

Enquiries are made in cases of notifiable disease and disinfection is carried out free of cost. In other cases a charge is made. The disinfecting plant at Market Street is functioning satisfactorily.

### Foods

The inspection of food and the premises in which it is prepared for sale or sold is one of the most important duties of the department.

#### (i) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Routine inspections of premises under the above Regulations have occupied a great deal of time. Shop keepers have been found to be most co-operative and show considerable interest in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions. The increasing tendency of manufacturers to pre-pack their products is also a major factor in general appearance of food shops. The serving of notices requiring improvements is now superseded in the main by verbal requests which are producing the same results.

The number of food premises in the Borough which are subject to these Regulations is 237 and have been classified in the following categories. Each food business is classified by its main trade, due to the diversity of foodstuffs sold in many premises.

	No. of Premises	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (hand washing facilities)	No. of premis. to which Reg. 19 applies	Premis. fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (food & equip. washing fac.)
Grocers	64	64	62	62
Butchers	21	21	21	21
Bakers & confectioners (incl. distribution centres)	14	14	14	14
Restaurants, unlicensed hotels and kiosks	16	16	16	16
Greengrocers	12	12	12	12
Confectioners (sweetmeats)	25	25	25	25
Wet Fish	2	2	2	2
Fried Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Licensed premises (inc. off-licences)	59	59	59	59
Cooked meats etc.	3	3	3	3
Canteens	11	11	11	11

64 stalls, which includes St. Matthews Fair, have also been inspected during the year.

(ii) The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is 113.

Ice-Cream Premises	82
Potted, Pressed, Pickled and Preserved Foods	31
The number of firms retailing milk in the Borough is	39

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested.

(iii) The number of inspections of registered food premises is given in the summary at the end of the report.



(iv) In connection with the visits to food premises the following foods were condemned.

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouse	54	18	74
Meat at retail shops		9	15
Poultry		1	81
Canned Meats		5	34
Fish		1	52
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	1	4	41
Frozen Foods		15	72
Bacon		5	-
Fruit Pulp and Peel	29	3	64
Tomato Puree	6	4	2
Other Foods	1	3	93
	94	12	69

The meat, after staining, was sent to a sterilisation plant and other foods disposed of at the Corporation Refuse Tip.

(v) No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.

(vi) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959 - 1963

The number of premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream is as follows:-

Registered for manufacture and sale	2
Registered for sale	80

In both instances of manufacture, brands of cold mix are used.

70 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and these were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	64
Grade 2	4
Grade 3	2
Grade 4	-

These results are quite satisfactory.

## Meat Inspection

All slaughtering in the Borough is carried out at a privately owned slaughterhouse at the Cattle Market. It is well provided with refrigerated space and a good cooling hall. A larger water main was installed during the year so that there is a plentiful supply for all purposes. Individual paper towels are provided for wiping down each carcass and there is a sterilising tank for knives, saws etc.

There was a slight increase in the number of animals killed during the year compared with 1967. Whilst the number of calves slaughtered has decreased the total figure was more than made up by an increase of 5, 144 pigs over last year's figures.

One hundred per cent meat inspection was again maintained and since slaughtering is carried on over Saturdays and Sundays this has entailed a good deal of overtime for the public health staff.

All meat passed as fit for human consumption is stamped in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The general quality of meat inspected was very good and the great majority of carcasses rejected were from animals slaughtered for emergency reasons.

### Carcasses Inspected

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1, 329	132	6, 219	36, 700	29, 471+	73, 851
Number Examined	1, 329	132	6, 219	36, 700	29, 471+	73, 851

+includes 178 sows and 24 boars

In addition to the above two goats were killed and inspected.

No horses were slaughtered within the Borough.

### Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>All diseases except T. B. &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	11	231	75	350	672
Parts or organs condemned	286	77	92	2, 353	7, 171	9, 979
% of the no. inspected affected with diseases other than T. B. or Cysticerci	21.9	66.7	5.2	6.6	25.5	14.4
<u>T. B. only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	1
Parts or organs condemned	-	-	-	-	296	296
% of no. inspected affected with T. B.	-	-	-	-	1.0	0.4

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	-	10
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	-	-	-	-	10
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for</u>						
(a) T. B.	-	-	-	-	4, 531	4, 531
(b) Cysticercosis	323	-	-	-	-	323
(c) Other	5, 788	9, 362	12, 909	8, 824	81, 313	118, 196
	6, 111	9, 362	12, 909	8, 824	85, 844	123, 050

Conditions Rendering Carcase Meat and Organs Unfit for Human Consumption

Disease or condition	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Abnormal odour	-	-	234(4)	-	119(1)
Abscesses	675	69	62	65	1, 251
Actinobacillosis and actinomycosis	5	74	-	-	-
Anæmia	-	-	-	-	197(2)
Arthritic conditions	52	81	-	117	693
Ascariasis	-	-	-	-	4, 012
Bruising	288	3, 108(1)	45	80	969(1)
Cirrhosis	225	15	17	82	2, 295
Congestion	32	18	-	27	2, 582
Contamination (tank water)	-	-	-	-	1, 987
C. Bovis	323	-	-	-	-
C. Ovis	-	-	-	62	-
C. Tenuicollis	-	-	-	679	-
Emaciation, pathological	-	524(1)	823(17)	852(26)	2, 179(24)
Enteritis, acute gastro -	-	-	434(8)	-	-
Fascioliasis	1, 412	280	-	929	-
Fatty change	-	61	14	-	6
Fever (pyrexia)	1, 523(3)	-	3, 437(42)	85(1)	2, 345(15)
Gangrene	-	67	-	-	3
Hydatid cysts	14	44	-	523	-
Immature	-	-	149(8)	-	-
Imperfect bleeding	464(1)	-	-	-	179(2)
Inflammatory conditions	120	2	12	47	11, 888
Jaundice (icterus)	-	-	115(3)	-	762(7)



Disease or condition	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Mastitis, acute septic	-	-	-	76(1)	-
Metritis, acute septic	-	485(1)	-	217(2)	448(2)
Moribund	-	-	945(19)	342(7)	5, 258(47)
Muellerius capillaris	-	-	-	215	-
Nephritis, including "white spot"	-	3	28	-	4
Oedema	8	2, 107(4)	324(8)	815(20)	358(4)
Other diseases or conditions	16	28	10	13	48
Parasitical conditions	-	-	-	1, 454	1, 644
Pericarditis	10	8	1	29	604
Pericarditis, acute septic	-	-	-	139(3)	3, 895(37)
Peritonitis, acute septic	-	451(1)	355(3)	79(1)	3, 206(32)
Pleurisy	157	15	3	26	2, 333
Pleurisy, acute septic	-	-	101(2)	302(6)	7, 687(68)
Pneumonia	51	42	97	1, 090	10, 299
Pneumonia, acute septic	-	-	90(1)	-	64(1)
Pyæmia, incl. joint-ill	-	520(1)	4, 006(94)	33	10, 937(86)
Septic omphalophlebitis	-	-	270(5)	-	-
Septicæmia	-	-	632(7)	133(3)	906(6)
Strongylosis	-	-	-	129	-
Swine Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	838(5)
Telangiectasis	99	205	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	20(1)	-
Toxæmia	633(1)	1, 155(2)	705(10)	164(3)	978(7)
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	4, 531(1)
Tumours	4	-	-	-	132(1)
Uræmia	-	-	-	-	177(2)
Urticaria	-	-	-	-	30
Total weights (in lbs.)	6, 111(5)	9, 362(11)	12, 909(231)	8, 824(75)	85, 844(351)

Total weight of meat and offals rejected:-

54 tons 18 cwts. 2 qrs. 18 lbs.

The figures in brackets indicate the number of cases where the whole of the carcasses and their organs were rejected.

#### Foreign Bodies in Food

Fifteen complaints were received of foreign bodies in food. Examples of these complaints are metal fragments, mould growth, unsound frozen chicken and insect in food substances. Careful investigations are made in each case and we acknowledge the ready co-operation given by other local authorities when it is found necessary.

No legal proceedings were necessary but warning letters were sent in each case.

## Bacteriological Sampling of Food

Sixty samples of such foods as sausages, meat pies, faggots, minced beef and flour confectionery were taken for bacteriological examination. All were satisfactory.

## Clean Air

Fortunately in this part of the country, with so much wide open space surrounding the town there are no special problems arising from the general pollution of the atmosphere. However, there has been serious local pollution in two parts of the town due to acid smut emission from oil fired boiler chimneys. This caused serious concern to the people living in the areas affected due to contamination of washing, paintwork, curtains, flowers and garden vegetation.

After prolonged investigation by the Health Department staff including discussions with consultant heating engineers it was agreed to try in the one case a method of neutralising the acid smut by introducing a fine alkaline powder into the flue gases. The results so far have been most encouraging and the D. C. P. Alkajector has now been installed permanently as an ancillary part of the boiler plant. In the second case it was decided to change to a much lighter grade of fuel oil (35 secs.) with a much lower residual sulphur content. Various alterations had been made to the burner nozzles and a venturi was fitted into the brick flue to speed up the velocity of the chimney gases but with no reduction of smut emission. The use of lighter fuel oil appears to have solved the problem and the company involved has accepted the higher cost of this fuel in order to prevent this low level pollution of the atmosphere.

At another factory difficulty has been experienced in burning wood shavings and sawdust without producing black smoke. We are hopeful that this will be improved by the fitting of a different design of fuel feeding equipment which has been approved by the Ministry for use in Smoke Control Areas.

General observations are made of all factory chimneys and advice given when required.

Installation of all new furnaces is notified to the department under the provisions of the Act.

## Noise Abatement

Complaints of noise can range from a disturbance caused by the next door neighbour to the noise emitted twenty four hours a day from a factory affecting a large number of residents.

Whilst there is no legal definition of what constitutes a noise nuisance it may be said to apply when a noise is so loud or so irritating in character and which is either so prolonged or repeated as to interfere materially with the ordinary accepted standards of human comfort.

In a Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government dealing with Industrial Noise they advocate that the responsibility for dealing with industrial noise affecting the general public should remain with local authorities.

An excellent Refresher Course was held during the year at Bristol Technical College, covering all aspects of noise measurement and control. Pamphlets were purchased and made available to the public explaining in simple terms the problems of noise and what can be done about it.

A good deal of time was spent on this aspect of environmental health and a lot of solid achievement can be claimed.

The myth of associating dirt, smoke and grime with industry has been exploded with the progress made since the advent of the Clean Air Act and I am confident that the same energy will be directed to reduce as far as possible unwanted noise from our daily environment.

The department will continue to give priority to complaints of this nature and it is pleasing to report that in all cases so far encountered the firms have been most co-operative.

### Swimming Baths

Samples of water in the baths at the Broadway Lido were sent for bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. 12 samples were examined and with one exception all were satisfactory.

### Caravans

There are 2 licensed caravan sites in the Borough. One owned by the Corporation has been leased to a private developer. Both sites are mainly used for the larger residential type caravan with a number of spaces reserved for the touring caravan.

### Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of sewer treatments - 2                      No. of refuse tip treatments - 6

#### No. of complaints received of rat and mouse infestation:-

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Number of properties in district	10,314	13
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	282	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	214	-
(ii) Mice	55	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	6,656	13
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	78	4
(ii) Mice	36	-

During the year 6 full scale treatments were carried out on the refuse tips at Bristol Road and Saltlands, the former receiving four of these treatments because on the second survey it was found to have a fairly heavy infestation which was quickly brought under control.

Two sewer treatments were completed, the first consisting of the prolonged baiting of some 166 manholes, showed a take of 21, the second consisting of 139 manholes with a take of 14.

These results are most satisfactory and reflect the excellent work carried out throughout the year by our Rodent Operators.

#### Staff

Mr. D. J. Bardwell commenced his duties as a student public health inspector on the 23rd September, 1968. He has been accepted on a 3 year sandwich course at Bristol Technical College where he will study for his Diploma.



## SUMMARY

### Inspections made during the year

#### Environmental Health

Water Supply	49
Drainage	241
Stable and Piggeries	32
Factories	251
Outworkers	66
Rodent Control	154
Shops	89
Caravan Sites	20
Swimming Baths	18
Atmospheric Pollution	223
Pet Shops and Kennels	7
Licensed Premises	76
Noise Nuisances	184
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises - General Inspections	134
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises - Other Visits	215
Miscellaneous	264

#### Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	52
Visits paid to the above houses	99
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	123
Visits paid to the above houses	198
Houses inspected under the Rent Act	-
Visits paid under the Rent Act	-
Houses inspected under the Housing Points Scheme	267
Houses inspected in connection with overcrowding	8
Visits paid to the above houses	8
Verminous premises inspected	-
Visits paid to the above premises	-
Miscellaneous	225

#### Infectious Diseases

Enquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	9
Food Poisoning enquiries	9
Miscellaneous	3

#### Meat and Food Inspection

Visits to Slaughterhouses	931
Visits to Butchers	52
Visits to Confectioners	41
Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	14
Visits to Grocers	92
Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	16

Visits to Bakers and Confectioners	33
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	18
Visits to Dairies and Milk Distributors	19
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	27
Visits for Ice-Cream Samples	69
Visits for Food Samples (Bacteriological)	57
Visits to Restaurants and Catering Establishments	78
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	48
Visits to Licensed Premises	77
Visits to Markets Stalls	147
Visits to Mobile Shops and Delivery Vans	33
Miscellaneous	86

### Explosives

Visits in connection with Explosives	78
Visits in connection with Petroleum Spirit	332

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

#### Washing - Food and Equipment

Sinks provided or renewed	7
Water heater renewed	2
Drainage boards provided/renewed	5

#### Washing - Hands

Washbasins provided or renewed	4
Hot water supply provided	2
Nailbrushes provided	8
Notices provided	6

#### W. C. Compartments

Cleansed	10
Ventilation provided	1

#### Food Rooms

Lighting improved	1
Walls repaired	3
Walls cleansed	6
Ceilings cleansed	5
Ceilings repaired	2
Floors repaired	1
Rooms redecorated	3

#### General

S. D. Bins provided	3
Food raised 18" above ground	2
Impervious surfaces repaired/renewed	3
Miscellaneous items repaired/renewed	6

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Section 4 - Cleanliness

Decoration of rooms 5

Section 6 - Temperature

Provision of adequate heating 4

Provision of thermometers 23

Section 7 - Ventilation

Provision of adequate ventilation 4

Section 8 - Lighting

Provision of adequate artificial lighting 1

Section 9 - Sanitary Conveniences

W. C. 's provided 6

Screening to W. C. Compartment provided 1

W. C. Compartments re-decorated 7

Gents and Ladies signs provided 13

Provision of incinerator for S. T. disposal 1

Provision of artifical lighting 4

Ventilation provided/improved 2

Section 10 - Washing Facilities

Provision of hot water supply 17

Provision of cold water supply 8

Provision of wash hand basin 10

Provision of towels 8

Section 12 - Clothing Accommodation

Accommodation provided/improved 11

Section 16 - Floors, Passages etc.

Handrail provided 5

Staircase provided 2

Floors relaid/repared 5

Section 17 - Machinery

Provision of guards 4

Section 24 - First Aid

Provision of first aid box 20

Existing first aid boxes brought up to standard 13

Regulations - Abstract displayed 40

### Factories Act

Artificial lighting provided to W. C. 's	1
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences re-decorated	3
Intervening ventilated space provided	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2

### Shops Act, 1950.

Forms exhibited	12
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### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Removal of harbourage	4
Drains cleared or repaired	7

I would like to take this opportunity of recording my thanks and appreciation for the support given to me by Members of the Council, for the co-operation of colleagues in other departments, and not least, for the loyalty and diligence of my own staff throughout the year.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. J. HUNT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.





